

February 2, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Simpson.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I too would oppose this rule change. I think that in most instances what they are asking happens now, if it doesn't I think that there are ways it can be taken care of. In looking at the rule change and listening to the portions which aren't in the Journal, it would seem to me that the portion on getting the opportunity to go out there by checking with the presiding officer possibly the Senator on the floor also ought to have the same option that he should ... make the request rather than the news media. If he wished that it should happen at his desk then maybe he should make the request to the presiding officer or either he should OK it that they should come after the request is given.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to oppose this rule change as well. I think our only problem on this floor is not the press, it's our own conduct. My relationship with the press has always been at my convenience and not at theirs, therefore I think there is no sense in having this type of rule change.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this rule change. I'd make just two brief statements. One, the height of decorum is in the graveyard. Secondly, the response to the press as to the individual members, each of us contain enough words in our vocabulary to say "get lost, scram, I'm busy, I don't want to talk now, same to you buddy," anything you want to say. Again, this is not something that the press can impose on you. There are a few that might attempt to. Some of them ... they need a little help in interpreting the laws and rules. What would happen if we didn't provide that for them? I just read an article Sunday where there was a little guidance needed. I'm going to try to help somebody out on that. I think it's our responsibility also to see that the press is as well informed that they can be. We have all kinds of press people from very good to otherwise. I think we ought to take it on as a teaching experience to help them. I don't want anything to frustrate their efforts in getting information and reporting to the public correctly.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm going to support Senator Bereuter's amendment. I think you should note with interest the people that got up here this morning and opposed it. I think they may have something in mind for opposing it. I don't know what it is, maybe signing up for another office or.... Senator Lewis, the reason I'm going to support this motion is that when you stand up and make a statement or you get an amendment on there, and Senator Cavanaugh is in the same boat, I want to tell you this is the noisiest area I've ever seen in my life because they surround you like a bunch of buzzards. They are getting information from you. You never take them over to the side. Now I know that happens. I know that you're going to stand up and say it's because they're good amend-